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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft made the industry, but killed competition

To whom it may concern:

Please include me in the thousands (hopefully millions) who are displeased with your Microsoft settlement. Did their earlier settlement teach us nothing? They have complete disregard for government regulation. If you've given them the slightest loophole, they've already seen it and are altering their strategy to take advantage of it. They did it before, which is why we had this new trial in the first place! This is the company that faked videotape evidence. This is the company that created a non-bootable version of Windows when asked to remove Internet Explorer and tried to argue that they were just doing what the judge asked for.

I am not a complete anti-Microsoft zealot. I admit freely that their work on DOS and Windows essentially created the home PC market. But they have destroyed competition. Windows might have made the home PC possible for the masses...but what about folks like me who understand the options and choose not to use Windows? Does Microsoft give me a choice? Not if they can help it. That's why they are a known monopoly. Sure I can choose to run Linux (and I do), but can I go to a retail store and buy a machine with Linux pre-installed so that I don't have to pay the proverbial "Microsoft tax"? Nope.

I would prefer not to use Microsoft Word, Excel, or any of the other applications in Microsoft Office. They are poor applications with a mediocre interface, a bloated file format, and countless known security holes. But do I have much of a choice? No, because Microsoft has eliminated competition in those areas as well. That's a monopoly of theirs that was barely touched upon.

I would prefer not to use Microsoft Internet Explorer. Again, does Microsoft give me much of a choice? Just barely.

There are many, many people out there who will argue that there's nothing wrong with Microsoft applications. That is because they don't know what competition is like. Why do we have viruses like Code Red and Nimda? Because of the quality of products like IIS and Outlook. The masses don't understand this. They think that viruses and blue screens of death are just part of the normal computing experience. Sure, it was good that Microsoft made it possible for them to have a computer in the first place, but they've also got people so frustrated that they're screaming and swearing at their computers and rebooting 3 times a day because they think it's the only option they have. And it's not.

I have never wanted to see Microsoft broken up, or restrained, or any other number of remedies that would hurt the masses at large. If people like to use

Windows and other applications, they should have the right to do so. But the fact is that there are many people who choose not to, and many more people who do not know that there is a choice, and those are the people that need to be considered. Microsoft deliberately acts to prevent competition, and that is where they need to be stopped. If the argument is truly that Microsoft is good for the industry, then only healthy competition will prove that. Does Linux compete? Only to the extent that Microsoft lets them. We've already established that Windows is a monopoly, after all. Isn't there supposed to be some sort of punishment for that?

Thank you for this forum to express my thoughts. I truly hope that the government can modify Microsoft's proven anti-competitive, monopolistic practices and not just produce a settlement that registers as little more than a speedbump on their road to industry domination.

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